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Federal Policy & Business

Postal Service may default on a \$5.5 billion trust fund payment

CNN: The U.S. Postal Service does not have the money to meet an obligation to a retiree health care trust fund coming due at the end of the month, but if there's a default, officials promise no interruption in the mail, the payroll, or payments to suppliers. Commenting in response to a New York Times article Monday suggesting the Postal Service may have to shut down within months, spokeswoman Yvonne Yoerger told CNN there's "nothing actually new in the Postal Service's position."

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A different story emerges on SEC record purges

The Washington Post: When the Securities and Exchange Commission was accused last year of improperly destroying records, in particular those related to certain initial inquiries into possible wrongdoing, the agency responded with a reassuring letter. In a response to the National Archives, which oversees the preservation of federal records, the SEC said its enforcement division was "not aware of any specific instances" in which it destroyed records of cases that it deemed unworthy of full-blown investigation.

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Consumer protection nominee promises cooperation

AZ Central: WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Barack Obama's nominee to head the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is promising to be accountable to Congress and is playing down the lawsuits his agency will be able to file against banks and other financial institutions. Even so, Richard Cordray's chances of winning Senate approval to lead the agency remained uncertain. Republicans have promised to block any nominee to head the agency unless the bureau is changed in ways they say will make it more accountable. Democrats say those changes would weaken its powers.

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Obama's stimulus gambit

CNN: NEW YORK (CNNMoney) -- Now is the time for action. That's the message the White House is bringing to Congress as lawmakers return to work this week. In a major speech Thursday night, President Obama is expected to argue that the government must do more to spur job growth, investment and

economic expansion.

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Federal Government IT

DHS Warns of Anonymous Cyber-Attack Tools, Planned Mass Protests

eWeek: The United States Department of Homeland Security warned the security community about potential attacks from hacking collective Anonymous over the next few months. The Sept. 2 security bulletin from the DHS National Cyber-Security and Communications Integration Center warned financial services companies to be on the lookout for attackers operating under the Anonymous umbrella to "solicit ideologically dissatisfied, sympathetic employees" to the cause.

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Performance website underperforms

Federal Times: A year ago, the Obama administration heralded plans to launch a new website that would provide "unmatched transparency on government performance" — a site that would fuse data-driven reviews and information on agency objectives, key performance indicators and milestones. After a 10-month delay and \$1.7 million in development costs, performance.gov finally debuted last month — to sharply mixed reviews on whether it lives up to that initial billing.

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Analyst: An AT&T Win In Court Means More Regulation

National Journal: If AT&T wins its court battle with the Justice Department it could cause wave of new government regulation, according to telecom analyst Tom Wheeler. In a blog post on Friday, Wheeler, a former president of the National Cable Television Association and CEO of the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association, argued that conditions imposed on AT&T's merger with T-Mobile could end up being extended to the whole market.

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Fraudsters exploit leaked dot-mil addresses

Nextgov: A July leak of 90,000 military email addresses and passwords has helped swindlers commit online fraud, FBI officials said.

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Special Reports & Whitepapers

5 Steps to Successful IT Consolidation & Virtualization

Has your Enterprise made the strategic decision to consolidate remote site IT infrastructure into central data centers? Then you have probably discovered that consolidation projects are fraught with technical, organization, and implementation challenges that require a well thought-out strategy. Download this paper by Riverbed and discover a clear 5-step approach to making sure every consolidation project is successful.

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Accelerating Secure Networks for the Federal Government

Identifying Security is a concern for all enterprises. Organizations in many industries - from government to financial services to healthcare - have to protect sensitive information, and in many cases comply with specific regulations to ensure the proper safeguarding of data. Recent security breaches have fueled significant growth in the number of security offerings and standards in the marketplace. This paper explores WAN optimization leader Riverbed Technology's secure WAN optimization capabilities in more detail.

Sponsored by Riverbed.

Download Now | Share: Server & Storage Virtualization An i360Gov Special Report.

Government organizations are working hard to do more with less, consolidating data centers and striving to deliver more services online to help lower operating costs and comply with federal regulatory mandates such as the Office of Management and Budget's 25-Point Plan to Reform Federal IT.A big part of the ongoing consolidation efforts includes virtualization, putting more applications on fewer servers to save space and reduce complexity in government data centers. Trouble is, virtualization implementation efforts in many organizations have slowed, partly due to the difficulties that arise in the management and control of rampant storage growth.

Read this special report to learn more, including interviews with industry experts and best-practice advice.

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Download Now | Share: A New IT Consolidation Mantra

An i360Gov Special Report.

As most state budgets continue to decrease, government officials grapple regularly with which IT initiatives to approve. Consolidation has taken hold as a way to renovate IT, update systems and applications, and identify shared functions that may help states and localities stretch IT dollars to meet ever-growing demands for new and better constituent services.

A heightened focus on performance management and IT modernization are driving streamlining for everything from data centers, to email, to billing and constituent-facing services.

Read this i360Gov special report that highlights key state and local government IT consolidation efforts currently under way, and lays out the key steps public sector audiences must take to reduce risks, improve transparency and automate where possible to reduce IT management burdens.

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Download Now | Share: Oracle Databases on VMware - Use Cases

Use cases and benefits delivered by virtualizing Oracle databases on VMware vSphere.

Production database administrators are primarily concerned with scalability, performance and overall resource management. Deploying Oracle databases on vSphere is not significantly different from deploying Oracle on physical servers.

Database architects can take advantage of the features and capabilities of vSphere to create their enterprise database strategy and next-generation scalable architectures. This paper provides use cases and benefits delivered by virtualizing Oracle databases on VMware vSphere.

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A Practical Guide for Retiring Legacy Applications

Need to know how to retire a legacy application and the supporting software and hardware stack, and still keep the data easily and inexpensively accessible for reporting, regulatory compliance, and regular business needs? This paper discusses how to decide which legacy applications should be retired and strategies for retiring them wisely. You'll learn the seven key steps involved in legacy retirement. It also introduces the key advantages of the Informatica solution for application retirement.

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Software License Management

A new whitepaper from Belarc. Why spend so much money on unused software and maintenance? One-half of most software budgets is spent on maintaining existing software. This is an excellent opportunity to significantly reduce annual IT expenses, and improve IT security. Please send an email to whitepapers@belarc.com requesting our white paper or click on the whitepaper title above.

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Leveraging Continuous Monitoring to Gain Greater Situational Awareness

An i360Gov Special Report.

For the federal government to achieve a stronger cyber security posture, agencies must focus on automation, interoperability and authentication, according to officials from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

The current federal focus on continuous monitoring will help agencies achieve the level of automation required to dramatically improve their ability to assess and respond to risks. But DHS, NIST and other observers say standards are still needed to increase interoperability, and authentication guidance is also required to protect user identities in cyberspace.

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Government Healthcare - Policy & IT

Are new rules on health care and banks killing jobs?

CNN: WASHINGTON (CNNMoney) -- To many Republicans and business leaders, there's little doubt: The health care law and sweeping new Wall Street regulation -- two of President Obama's signature legislative victories -- are causing uncertainty and killing jobs. Take, for example, a massive public relations campaign organized by House Republican leaders.

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High-risk health care plans fail to draw crowd

Stateline: Throughout the rancorous public debate over the national health law, two provisions have maintained broad public support. One is the requirement that insurance companies let young adults up to age 26 remain on their parents' policies. The other is a federally subsidized insurance plan for people whose medical conditions make them uninsurable in the private marketCovering young adults has been a resounding success. As of April 2011, more than 600,000 were included in their parents' health plans. The Obama administration predicts 1.2 million will be covered by year's end.

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Childbirth: Neonatal Deaths Slow, but U.S. Still Lags

The New York Times: According to a new analysis, the United States now ranks 41st in the world in terms of neonatal mortality, the death rate of infants less than one month old. The rate is higher in the United States than in, among others, Cuba, Slovakia, Croatia and all of Western Europe and Scandinavia.

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Kansas Plans New Medicaid Eligibility Determination System

Government Technology: To identify fraud, waste and inefficiencies within Medicaid and other eligibility-based programs, Kansas recently announced plans to modernize and expand its eligibility determination system. The system is expected to begin rolling out by the end of 2013, according to Gov. Sam

Brownback's office. The Kansas Eligibility Enforcement System (KEES) will help the state determine applicant eligibility for state medical programs as well as cash and food assistance. Through cross-referenced state and federal data sources, the system will automatically identify ineligible applicants for the programs and will streamline service delivery for qualifying applicants, the governor's office said.

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Webinars

Technology Requirements for Successful Health Information Exchanges (HIE)

Wed, September 14th, 2011 at 2:00pm EST

To successfully deploy an effective Health Information Exchange, states need to deploy a number of key technologies. While there are a variety of different architectural models for an HIE, each model will need one or more of the following:

A Network Infrastructure capable of reliably and securely exchanging data between participants in the HIE An application to interpret requests from HIE participants, respond and/or route requests from those participants as appropriate.

Data Integration Services

Master Patient Index (Patient Matching)

Master Provider Index (Provider Matching)

Record Locator Service to help determine routing for HIE requests

This educational webinar will delve into each of these key technological requirements and how these technologies work together to provide the core services of a Health Information Exchange. Our featured speakers are Ray Shanley, Principal Solutions Consultant for Informatica, and Paul J. Cosgrave, former New York City Commissioner for the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, former New York City Chief Information Officer, and former Internal Revenue Service Chief Information Officer.

Sponsored by DLT Solutions and Informatica.

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Server & Storage Virtualization: Current Initiatives and Best Practice Advice from Government Experts Since December 2010, the Implementation Plan to Reform Federal IT Management has led to fundamental changes in how the government manages its \$80 billion in annual IT investments. Most government organizations are doing more with less, consolidating data centers and delivering more constituent services online.

Server virtualization is also taking hold, putting more applications on fewer servers to save space and reduce complexity in federal data centers. The next important challenge is how to manage and control rampant storage growth – which requires new tools and techniques, such as tiering and deduplication, among others. Join i360Gov.com to learn more about how public sector audiences can successfully meld server and storage virtualization to further streamline data center operations and lower costs. Panelists include:

Jon Toigo, chairman of the Data Management Institute
Justin Nemmers, Salsa Labs
Greg Pryzby, Senior Solutions Architect, Red Hat, Inc.
Jon Benedict, Systems Architect, Infrastructure and Cloud Engineering, NetApp

All webcast registrants will receive a complimentary special report on this topic following the live event.

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IT Consolidation: The Best Path to Automated, Streamlined Government Services As most state budgets continue to decrease, government officials grapple regularly with which IT initiatives to approve. Consolidation has taken hold as a way to renovate IT, update systems and applications, and identify shared functions that may help states and localities stretch IT dollars to meet ever-growing demands for new and better constituent servicesA heightened focus on performance management and IT modernization are driving streamlining for everything from data centers, to email, to billing and constituent-facing services. View this i360Gov educational webinar that highlights key state and local government IT consolidation efforts currently under way, and lays out the key steps public sector audiences must take to reduce risks, improve transparency and automate where possible to reduce IT management burdens.

Speakers include:

Eric Sweden, Senior Enterprise Architect, National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO), Lexington, KY Rick Hoffman, State Administrative Manager in charge of storage management for Michigan's Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB) Chris Dixon, Manager, State & Local Industry Analysis, INPUT

Carlos Valarezo, National Manager, Systems Engineering, U.S. State, Local, and Education Sales, Symantec Corporation

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Watch Now | Share: How to Implement GIS in your Cloud

Enterprise GIS for Government Agencies

As government agencies consolidate their IT environments and offer shared services, many are finding that a GIS solution improves work flow while fitting within tight budgets and varying enterprise architectures.

View this i360Gov webinar to gain practical information regarding:

How agencies are consolidating their IT environments and offering shared services How to approach implementing a GIS solution quickly and easily A case study

Sponsored by EMC, ESRI and VCE.

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Federal Cybersecurity: Current Initiatives and Best Practice Advice

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) just-published white paper, Enabling Distributed Security in Cyberspace, outlines a big problem with U.S. government cyber defenses; their piece-parts, including firewalls, integrity checkers, virus scanners, intrusion detection systems, anti-virus software and other solutions generally don't communicate well and don't possess consistent security policies.In the ideal cybersecurity 'ecosystem of the future,' DHS maintains sending and receiving parties would be known and accountable for their actions, but anonymity would be protected when needed. In addition, government cybersecurity communities would define policies to permit participants to collaborate seamlessly and dynamically in an automated community defense. View this i360Gov educational webinar and listen as leading government officials and experts discuss the latest critical federal cybersecurity initiatives and provide insight into key trends impacting government organizations, along with the steps agencies should take to better protect IT operations today and in the future.

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Energy - Policy & Technology

Is Obama Bad for the Environment?

Time: Over the past few weeks, there have been two very distinct lobbying efforts directed at President Barack Obama over environmental and energy policy. One has been done very publicly — more than 1,000 activists, ranging from celebrities and scientists to former Obama campaign organizers — have been arrested outside the White House, protesting the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, which would transport half a million barrels a day of carbon-intensive crude from oil-sands developments in western Canada.

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U.S. solar firm Solyndra files for bankruptcy protection

Reuters: Solyndra LLC, a solar panel maker which had earlier received \$535 million in federal loan guarantees, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection early on Tuesday, making it the third U.S. solar firm to succumb to pressure from lower-cost Chinese rivals. In a filing with the Delaware bankruptcy court, the company listed assets and liabilities in the range of \$500 million to \$1 billion. Companies usually try to reduce the debt level and reorganize business operations through the Chapter 11 bankruptcy route.

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State misses Chuitna petition response deadlines

Anchorage Daily News: A lawsuit against Gov. Sean Parnell's administration will be the next step if a legal process for protesting the Chuitna coal development continues to go unanswered. Under hard-rock mining laws, Unsuitable Lands Petitions cannot be filed, such as in the case of the Pebble project. But under soft-rock mining for coal, a provision exists for citizens and groups to petition the government arguing that a particular area should be deemed unsuitable, said Cook InletKeeper Executive Director Bob Shavelson.

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Mini Nukes Could Help Meet Electricity Demands

Governing: Small nukes could be the next big thing in clean energy. Some energy officials have begun looking into whether small, portable atomic reactors might help meet the public's ever-growing demand for electricity. With a construction process similar to that of mobile homes, these scaled-down reactors could be partially built in factories, shipped by rail, assembled onsite and plugged into existing grids. Roughly the size of a freight rail car, these pint-sized power producers are about one-tenth the size of a traditional nuclear reactor.

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Defense / Intelligence / Homeland Security

Council of Europe demands truth on CIA 'black sites'

CNN: The human rights commissioner for the Council of Europe urged countries that have hosted secret CIA prisons to come clean Monday, as the 10th anniversary of 9/11 approaches. Thomas Hammarberg said Poland, Romania and Lithuania were among at least seven countries that hosted "black sites" for "enhanced interrogation" during the "war on terror."

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Soft Target: At the Pentagon's New Office Complex, Disturbing Questions About Security Time: The truck bomb set off at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in April 1995 vaporized one-third of the first and second floors, causing the seven floors above to collapse into the horseshoe-shaped vacuum that formed below. To achieve that horrific level of damage, Timothy McVeigh had simply driven up in a 24-foot Ryder truck packed with 5,000 pounds of explosives and parked it in a loading lane on the north side of the building. The explosion killed 168 people and wounded nearly 700.

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Pakistan Army Says It Holds Al-Qaeda Global Operations Chief

Bloomberg Business Week: (Bloomberg) -- Pakistan said it arrested al-Qaeda's top leader for

international operations with American help, sounding a conciliatory tone on bilateral ties strained by the U.S. killing of Osama bin Laden in May.Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate captured Younis Al-Mauritani and al-Qaeda operatives Abdul Ghaffar al- Shami and Messara al-Shami in the city of Quetta, the military's press office said yesterday in an e-mailed statement. The arrests are part of "a strong, historic intelligence relationship" between both countries, the statement said.

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Easing Stance, Iran Offers Inspectors 'Supervision' of Nuclear Program

The New York Times: WASHINGTON — Iran on Monday made its first counterproposal in two years to ease the confrontation with the West over its nuclear program, offering to allow international inspectors "full supervision" of the country's nuclear activities for the next five years, but on the condition that the mounting sanctions against Iran are lifted.

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State & Local Government - Policy & Technology

RI: Rhode Island considers radical moves as pensions put state on brink

The Washington Post: PROVIDENCE, R.I. — This state has barely a million residents, but it is at least \$6.8 billion short when it comes to funding pension plans for retired teachers, police officers and other public employees. State Treasurer Gina M. Raimondo (D) said that per capita, Rhode Island has the nation's largest unfunded pension liability.

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CA: How Fusion Centers Help Protect California's Critical Infrastructure

Government Technology: In an interview with Mike Dayton, acting secretary of the California Emergency Management Agency, Government Technology's sister publication Emergency Management found out how California utilizes fusion centers and works with the private sector to protect critical infrastructure.

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Why New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Law Should Be a Model for Other States

Time: On Sept. 1, New Jersey's new anti-bullying law — billed as the nation's toughest — took effect. The law, which cosponsor Barbara Buono, the state's Senate Majority leader, called "a powerful message to every child in New Jersey," is an important step forward in combating the bullying of young people, but even before its start date the backlash was already underway. Critics say the law is too burdensome for teachers, too expensive for school districts and will spawn too many lawsuits. But here's why New Jersey should ignore its critics and press ahead — and other states should follow its lead.

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Obama Urges Congress to 'Get on Board' With More Infrastructure Spending

FoxNews: President Obama called for Congress to "get on board" with more infrastructure spending and a new round of middle-class tax cuts Monday, as he delivered a campaign-style speech that served as a warm-up to a vital jobs address later this week. Interrupted repeatedly by chants of "four more years," the president marked Labor Day in Detroit at a rally with the nation's top labor leaders. He used the address to underscore his alliance with the labor movement -- at a time when cracks are starting to show -- and preview some of the proposals he'll outline during a speech Thursday before a joint session of Congress.

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